

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-16, 18, 22, and 23 are currently pending. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14-16 are allowable. Claims 19-21 are cancelled and claims 7, 13, and 17 were previously cancelled. Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 21 and all intervening claims. Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to depend from claim 18.

Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claim 18 to include the subject matter of claims 19-21. This makes amended claim 18 the equivalent of original claim 21, and therefore no new issues have been raised for consideration by the Examiner.

The cited references do not teach or suggest, among other things, first and second lubrication holes and a central lubrication hole being located in a longitudinal plane, and the first and second lubrication holes communicating with a bearing surface for supplying lubricant to the bearing surface and to a wristpin.

First, if Gaiser et al. were modified to include the opening 72 of Ribeiro et al. or the central opening 206e of Zhu et al., the passages 86 of modified Gaiser et al. would not be located in a common longitudinal plane with this central opening. Rather, as disclosed in Gaiser et al., "there are thus four such passages 86, two servicing each inner face 48 of the pin bosses 44 on opposite side[s] of the pin bore axis A." *Gaiser et al.*, col. 5, lines 14-17. Since the passages 86 are spaced apart from a pin bore axis A, they are therefore also spaced apart from a longitudinal plane defined by the pin bore axis A and an axis extending through the central opening.

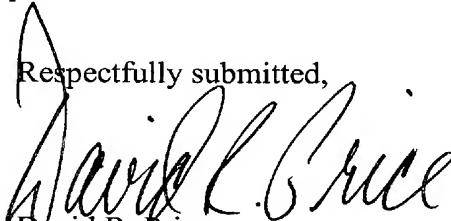
Second, the passages 86 of modified Gaiser et al. do not supply lubricant between the bearing surface and the wristpin. Instead, the passages 86 supply oil to the inner faces 48 between the pin bosses 44 and the connection rod 52. Furthermore, if Gaiser et al. were modified to include a central opening, the passages 86 would likewise be modified to provide fluid communication to the cavity 54 having the central opening. Gaiser et al. does disclose oil passages 90 that provide oil to recesses 88 adjacent to a wristpin during operation of the piston 10. However, similar to the passages 86, these oil passages 90 are also offset from the pin bore axis A and, therefore, the longitudinal plane.

The Examiner notes that Zhu et al. disclose oil inlet holes 125 in a common longitudinal plane with the central opening 106e. However, while the oil inlet holes 125 are mentioned in plural form, only one is shown which can be considered in the same longitudinal plane as the central opening 106e. Also, the oil inlet holes 25 do not supply lubricant to a bearing surface and to a wristpin. Instead, "cooling oil is pumped through the oil inlet holes 125 under pressure into the outer chamber 122 where it cools the outer oil ring section of the crown 102." *Zhu et al.*, col. 4, lines 28-30. Therefore, the oil inlet holes 125 function in a manner opposite of the claimed lubrication holes.

The remaining cited references also do not disclose the claimed piston configuration and are not relied upon by the Examiner for this part of the rejection. As such, claim 18 is allowable. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 18 and are therefore allowable. Claims 22 and 23 also include additional patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-16, 18, 22, and 23 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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